

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT**GUIDED PATHWAY: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT**

For more information, visit the Laredo College Occupational Therapy Assistant website by clicking [here](#) and your [academic advisor](#).

Program Description: The Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant degree prepares graduates to work as a occupational therapy assistant, under the supervision of a occupational therapist, “to help people across the lifespan to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations)”, (AOTA, 2021). The OTA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

This is an example course sequence for students interested in pursuing an Associates of Applied Science as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. It does not represent a contract, nor does it guarantee course availability. Following this pathway will help you earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.¹ For official degree requirements, [click here](#).

Visit www.laredo.edu/pathways to view guided pathways created for students who complete an AAS degree and the options for transfer. Speak with an academic advisor at your college to choose courses that will help you to transfer to a specific university

Reference retrieved from: (2019). Aota.org. <https://www.aota.org/About-Occupational-Therapy.aspx>

**COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS (only for the AAS)**

Enrolling in one or more courses may be necessary if assessment activities and previous academic experiences indicate a need for additional knowledge and skills:

READING & WRITING PLACEMENT

TSIA2 MET: YES NO

IF NO, ADVISOR INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED

☐ INRW _____

☐ OTHER: _____

MATH PLACEMENT

TSIA2 MET: YES NO

IF NO, ADVISOR INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED

☐ DEV MATH _____

☐ OTHER: _____

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

TSIA2 MET: YES NO

IF NO, ADVISOR INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED

☐ ESOL _____

☐ OTHER: _____

Exemptions/waivers may exist. Speak with an academic advisor regarding placement in college readiness courses and your ability to enroll in core academic coursework.

SEMESTER BY SEMESTER MAP FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS²

D			PREREQUISITES	ACTION ITEMS
◆			OTHA 1305 – Principles of Occupational Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to confirm academic and career goals before the end of the semester. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor or instructor to research your career options and opportunities for job shadowing. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to apply for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
◆			BIOL 2301 – Anatomy and Physiology I (C)	
◆			BIOL 2101 – Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory	
◆			ENGL 1301 – Composition I (C)	
◆			PSYC 2314 – Lifespan Growth & Development (C)	

TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 13

D			SEMESTER 1	ACTION ITEMS
◆			OTHA 1309 – Human Structure and Function in Occupational Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to file and official degree plan, confirm or update your academic/career path and program of study.
◆			OTHA 1315 – Therapeutic Use of Occupations or Activities I	
◆			OTHA 1341 – Occupational Performance Birth through Adolescence	
◆			OTHA 1161 – Clinical OTA – Pediatric	
◆			BIOL 2302 – Anatomy and Physiology II (C)	
◆			BIOL 2102 – Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory	

TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 14

D			SEMESTER 2	ACTION ITEMS
◆			OTHA 1319 – Therapeutic Interventions I	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to track your progress towards completion of program.
◆			OTHA 1349 – Occupational Performance in Adulthood	
◆			OTHA 2301 – Pathophysiology in Occupational Therapy	
◆			OTHA 1162 – Clinical OTA - Adults	
◆			SOCI 1301 – Introduction to Sociology (C)	

TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 13

D			SEMESTER 3	ACTION ITEMS
◆			OTHA 1253 – Occupational Performance in Elders	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to track your progress towards completion of program.
◆			OTHA 2309 – Mental Health in Occupational Therapy	
◆			OTHA 1163 – Clinical - Psychosocial	
◆			Elective – Language Philosophy, and Culture	

TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 9

Continued on the following page

D		SEMESTER 4	ACTION ITEMS
♦		OTHA 2462 – Clinical Rotation II	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to track your progress towards completion of program.
♦		OTHA 2463 – Clinical Rotation III	
♦		OTHA 2330 – Workplace Skills for the OTA	

TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 11**AAS DEGREE MINIMUM: 60 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS/PATHWAY TOTAL: 60 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS**

1. Degree plans may change in later catalogs. Be sure to consult with your advisor if you are continuing on an older degree plan.
 2. Students must earn at least 25% of the credit hours (15 hours) required for graduation through instruction by Laredo College awarding the degree.
 3. Capstone Experience
- C** This course counts for the Core Curriculum at any public college or university in Texas.

Certification and Licensure Information

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure. Questions regarding eligibility for licensure in Texas should be directed to the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners at <https://ptot.texas.gov>.

Career Information

Upon passing the national licensure exam, an occupational therapy assistant can work under the supervision of an occupational therapist in a variety of settings, including acute care hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, outpatient clinics (adult and pediatric populations), mental health facilities, home health, nursing homes, early childhood intervention, and school districts.

Common Job Titles

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA®) and Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA).

Regional Labor Market Information

Occupational Therapy Assistants: According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov) the national median salary for Occupational Therapy Assistants is \$61,730 (\$29.68/hour). Salary ranges depend on location, working hours, and experience. As the population of the United States ages, the demand for qualified OT practitioners has increased.

Salary Sources: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov)

Career and labor market research tools

[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov)

[O*NET](https://www.onet.org)

Career Resources: Laredo College offers information as a guide and reference tool for occupations related to this program. Students are encouraged to consult with their area of study advisor for additional career assistance. This is not a guarantee of job placement in any of these occupations after successful completion of an LC program. The common job titles listed are representative titles and are provided for career research.

Visit the websites below:

Laredo College: [Career Services](#)

Laredo College: [Advising, Career, and Transfer Center](#)

Laredo College: [Career Coach](#)

Transfer Information

The Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant prepares graduates to transition into the workforce as an Occupational Therapy Assistant once the graduate has passed the licensure exam. OTA program graduates have other career options which require the pursuit of a higher education degree. The area of study advisor can provide further information on these additional higher education options.

Transfer Guides: The universities listed here do not constitute a Laredo College endorsement. Transfer course evaluations and determination of which courses will count toward a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree are made by the receiving transfer institution.

OT Doctorate Programs:

Baylor University: [Doctor of Occupational Therapy \(OTD\)](#)- Baylor University's Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program integrates innovative technologies and hybrid learning strategies to prepare practice scholars, educational innovators, and professional leaders who utilize clinically meaningful research in the implementation of best practice and meet the changing demands of the Occupational Therapy profession.

UTMB Health: [Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy \(OTD\)](#) - The Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) is designed for students with a Bachelor's or Master's degree who want to become licensed occupational therapists.

UT Health San Antonio School of Health Professions: [Doctor of Occupational Therapy \(OTD\)](#) -Offers a Laredo Early Acceptance Program with Texas A&M International University (TAMU).

UTRGV The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: [Doctor of Occupational Therapy \(OTD\)](#)- Offers a 3.5-year entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD).

OT Bridge Programs:

The University of Texas at Tyler: [Master of Occupational Therapy \(COTA-to-MOT bridge program\)](#)- The Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program is an entry-level program for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs) with bachelor's degrees who would like to become registered Occupational Therapists (OTRs). Students will attend five semesters of blended instruction, combining online with on-campus delivery, followed by two, twelve-week Fieldwork experiences. These courses and fieldwork experiences allow the student to graduate with the MOT degree, and to sit for the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy registration exam. Students who obtain a passing score on the exam will become registered occupational therapists (OTRs), eligible for state licensure. Students will be admitted to the COTA-to-MOT hybrid program once a year in the Fall semester.

Bachelor Degree Programs:

Laredo College: [Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership](#)- This degree program is designed to be a flexible, affordable, student-centered approach to earning a bachelor's degree. Students may transfer credits earned from the occupational therapy assistant program into the BASORGL program.

Texas A&M International University: Bachelor of Science with a major in Biology (BS), Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences (BAAS), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of Science with a major in Kinesiology (BS), Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BS)

The University of Texas Education and Research Center at Laredo: [Bachelor's Degree in Multidisciplinary Studies](#)- Customized bachelor's degree program that allows students to combine three disciplines into a coherent course of study to meet career and educational goals. Disciplines include Health, Sociology, Communication, and Business.

Additional Transfer Resources: Laredo College's [transfer planning guide website](#) provides information on additional colleges & universities. Students are encouraged to consult with a faculty advisor, area of study advisor, and/or their chosen transfer institution to ensure courses taken at LC will apply to their bachelor's degree program.